AMENDMENT TO THE CLAIMS

What is claimed is:

1. (currently amended) A method of facilitating on-line shopping by a shopper at a supported merchant web site, the shopper having a computer with an Internet browser installed thereon, said method comprising the steps of:

(a) communicating computer code to add a shopping assistant button to a toolbar of the Internet browser ~~and for determining if a merchant web site is a supported merchant web site~~;

(b) communicating determination computer code to the computer, the determination computer code configured to determine if a merchant web site is a supported merchant web site;

~~(b)~~(c) creating a wallet for the shopper in a database on a server, the wallet being secured by a first security key previously received from the shopper;

~~(c)~~(d) receiving a second security key from the shopper;

~~(d)~~(e) comparing the first security key and the second security key; and

~~(e)~~(f) if the first and second security keys are the same, communicating the wallet to the computer.

2. (original) A method as recited by claim 1, further comprising the step of providing a supported merchant rules and mapping file for the supported merchant, and wherein said step (a) further comprises communicating computer code for automatically filling out a check-out web

page of the supported merchant web site using the wallet and the supported merchant rules and mapping file.

3. (original)   A method as recited by claim 1, wherein the shopping assistant button comprises a pull-down menu.

4. (original)   A method as recited by claim 1, wherein said step (b) comprises:

communicating a web page for display by the Internet browser;

receiving shopper data entered by the shopper in the web page; and

storing at least a portion of the shopper data as a wallet for the shopper in the database.

5. (original)   A method as recited by claim 1, wherein said step (a) further comprises communicating computer code to monitor the Internet navigation of the Internet browser by intercepting an Internet address for each Internet site to which the Internet browser is caused to navigate.

6. (original)   A method as recited by claim 5, further comprising the step of providing a supported merchant rules and mapping file for the supported merchant, and wherein said step (a) further comprises communicating computer code for automatically filling out a check-out web page of the supported merchant web site using the wallet and supported merchant rules and mapping file.

7. (previously presented)   A method as recited by claim 1, further comprising the step of communicating a supported merchant data file.

8. (original)   A method as recited by claim 7, wherein said step (a) further comprises determining if a merchant web site is a supported merchant web site by comparing the supported merchant data file with an Internet address for each Internet site to which the Internet browser is caused to navigate.

9. (original)   A method as recited by claim 7, wherein the computer code provides an indicator for the shopping assistant button when the Internet browser is at a supported merchant web site.

10. (previously presented)   A method as recited by claim 1, wherein said step (a) further comprises communicating computer code for intercepting each web page received by the browser and determining the type of web page by HTML code and http response headers provided in the intercepted web page.

11. (original) A method as recited by claim 1, wherein said step (e) comprises communicating a secure cookie to the computer.

12. (currently amended)   An Internet browser interface displayable by an Internet browser on a computer display comprising:

   a toolbar; and

   a shopping assistant button in said toolbar and defined by computer code received from a content provider operable with a processor of the computer for:

      intercepting an Internet address for each Internet site to which the Internet browser is caused to navigate;

determining if a web site to which the Internet browser is caused to navigate is a supported merchant web site; and

if the web site is a supported merchant web site, automatically filling out a check-out web page of the supported merchant web site using a wallet and a supported merchant rules and mapping file.

13. (original) An Internet browser interface as recited by claim 12, wherein said determining step comprises determining if a web site to which the Internet browser is caused to navigate is a supported merchant web site by comparing a supported merchant data file with an Internet address for each Internet site to which the Internet browser is caused to navigate.

14. (original) An Internet browser interface as recited by claim 12, wherein said shopping assistant button comprises a pull-down menu.

15. (original) An Internet browser interface as recited by claim 12, wherein the computer code is further operable with the processor for adding a toolbar and the shopping assistant button to said Internet browser interface.

16. (original) An Internet browser interface as recited by claim 12, wherein said shopping assistant button provides an indicator when the Internet browser is caused to navigate to a supported merchant web site.

17. (previously presented) An Internet browser interface as recited by claim 12, wherein the computer code is further operable with the processor for intercepting each web page received by the browser and determining the type of web page by HTML code and http response headers provided in the intercepted web page.

18. (currently amended)   A system for facilitating on-line shopping by a shopper having a computer with an Internet browser, said system comprising:

a server comprising:

a data storage device having a database thereon; and

a processor operable with software for:

communicating shopping assistant computer code to add a shopping assistant button to a toolbar of the Internet browser, the shopping assistant computer code operable to determine ~~determining~~ if a web site to which the Internet browser is caused to navigate is a supported merchant web site;

receiving wallet data including a first security key from the shopper and creating a wallet for the shopper in the database, the wallet being secured by the first security key;

receiving a second security key from the shopper;

comparing the first security key and the second security key; and

if the first and second security keys are the same, communicating the wallet to the computer.

19. (original)   A system as recited by claim 18, wherein said server is a secure server.

20. (original) A system as recited by claim 18, wherein said processor is further operable with software for providing a supported merchant rules and mapping file when the shopper has caused the Internet browser to navigate to a supported merchant web site, and wherein the

shopping assistant code for automatically fills out a check-out web page of the supported merchant web site using the wallet and supported merchant rules and mapping file.

21. (currently amended)   A method of facilitating on-line shopping by a shopper at a supported merchant web site, the shopper having a computer with an Internet browser installed thereon, said method comprising the step of communicating computer code to add a shopping assistant button to the Internet browser, wherein said computer code intercepts an Internet address for each Internet site to which the Internet browser is caused to navigate, determines <u>at the computer</u> if a web site to which the Internet browser is caused to navigate is a supported merchant web site, and if the web site is a supported merchant web site, automatically fills out a check-out web page of a supported merchant web site using a wallet and a supported merchant rules and mapping file.

22. (original)   A method as recited by claim 21, wherein said communicating step further comprises communicating computer code to add a shopping assistant button and a toolbar of the Internet browser.

23. (original)   A method as recited by claim 21, wherein said shopping assistant button further provides an indicator when the Internet browser is caused to navigate to a supported merchant web site.

24. (original)   A method as recited by claim 21, wherein said computer code determines if a web site to which the Internet browser is caused to navigate is a supported merchant web site by comparing a supported merchant data file with an Internet address for each Internet site to which the Internet browser is caused to navigate.

25-58. (cancelled)

59. (previously presented)   A method as recited by claim 7, wherein the merchant data file comprises supported merchant rules and mapping information.

60. (currently amended)   A method of facilitating on-line shopping by a shopper at a supported merchant web site, the shopper having a computer with an Internet browser installed thereon, said method comprising the steps of:

(a)   communicating computer code to add a shopping assistant button to a toolbar of the Internet browser;

(b)   creating a wallet for the shopper in a database on a server, the wallet being secured by a first security key previously received from the shopper;

(c)   determining at the computer if a web site to which the Internet browser is caused to navigate is a supported merchant web site, and wherein said shopping assistant button further provides an indicator when the Internet browser is caused to navigate to a supported merchant web site;

(d)   receiving a second security key from the shopper;

(e)   comparing the first security key and the second security key; and

(f)   if the first and second security keys are the same, communicating the wallet to the computer.